

Remarks

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 13-17, and 19 remain pending. Claims 2-3, 8-9, 11-12, 18 and 20 have been cancelled.

Claims 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claim 16 has been rewritten to include the features of dependent claim 18, now cancelled, and dependent claim 19 has been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 16, 17, and 19 are allowable.

Claim 19 has also been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Mikolas (US Pat. Pub. 2004/0005769). This rejection is defective because Mikolas fails to disclose each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Regarding independent claim 1, Mikolas fails to disclose at least the following:

“detecting a condition of the second material to determine whether processing of the first material is complete;

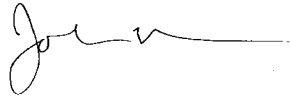
wherein the second material comprises a substance provided on the first material, wherein the substance includes a tag having the detectable condition.”

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed by Mikolas' material 52/53. In particular, the Examiner alleges that "Mikolas teaches that the second material 52/53 comprises a substance 53 (i.e., a dielectric material) provided on the first material 51, wherein the substance includes a tag having the detectable condition" (Office Action, page 4, second to last paragraph). This is incorrect. On the contrary, referring for example to FIGS. 5A-5D of Mikolas, the substance 53 is clearly not "provided on the first material 51," but is instead formed under the materials 51 and 52. Further, the substance 53 does not include a "tag having the detectable condition."

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-7, 10, 13-17, and 19 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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